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BULLETIN OF FOREIGN PLANT INTRODUCTIONS.

No. 14. March 21 to April 5, 1909.

NEW PLANT IMMIGRANTS.

ANONA. 25164. From O. W. Barrett, Lourenco Marques, Portuguese East Africa. Received March 30. "A small tree, wild near Lourenco Marques. Fruit 2-4 inches long, yellowish skin, bright yellow pulp; edible." (Barrett.) Seed sent to Subtropical Garden, Miami, Florida, for propagation.

ARISAEMA SP. (?) 25083. Seed from Mokanshan, China. Presented by Mr. D. MacGregor thru Mr. F. N. Meyer. Received March 20. "Fruit plum-colored, aromatic, vinous flavor; seeds in pulp; fruit the size of a plum." (MacGregor.) For propagation; plants available later.

ASTRAGALUS SINICUS. 25082. Seeds from near Shanghai, China. Presented by Mr. D. MacGregor thru Mr. Frank N. Meyer. Received March 20. "Used in the Chekiang Province as a leguminous green manure crop on the low-lying rice fields." (Meyer.) For preliminary tests by Office of Agrostologist. If satisfactory seed will be available later.

ATALANTIA HINDSII. 24587. Seeds from Hong Kong, China. Presented by Mr. S. T. Dunn. Received Jan. 14. "A shrub with compound branchlets, leathery leaves 1½-3 in. long, bearing small flowers in axillary clusters, followed by small, orange colored fruits." For distribution by Plant Life History Investigations.

CITRULLUS VULGARIS. 25095. From Island of Raiatea, Society Islands. Presented by Mr. Julius D. Dreher. Received March 15. "This melon was of a rich green color; its rind was thin and its pulp unusually red, tender and sweet. It was eaten at the Consulate and we regarded it as so good that I decided to send the seed to America for trial." (Dreher.)

COWPEAS and SOYBEANS. A collection of 18 numbers from Soochow, Kiangsu, China. Presented by Rev. R. A. Haden by whom descriptions are given. Received March 19.
25132. DOLICHOS LABLAB. Purple flat bean; bloom, stalk and leaves all are purple. Eaten in green state, pod and all. Enormously productive in vine and leaf; should be given plenty of room and vine supported."
25133-137, GLYCINE HISPIDA. Five kinds of soybeans.
25138. GLYCINE USSURIENSIS. Horse feed peas, a literal translation of the Chinese. Long vines, climbing on everything in reach, fruited from bottom to top. I think this should receive especial attention for the following reasons: It will be a good nitrogen producer. It is extensively used in Chinese medicine. It will make a better drink than anything except good coffee. Parch the whole pea until brown, grind and treat as boiled coffee. This I have tried and am very fond of it as a drink."
25139-141. PHASEOLUS ANGULARIS. "The uses of these are the same as cowpeas but the foliage is more abundant."
25142-143. PHASEOLUS CALCARATUS. From the shape of the seed these are called Crab eye. They are also called the lazy man's pea, for the reason that they replant themselves. Growth rank; vine bunchy, not very long. Should be extra fine for renewing land and for fodder."
25144-147. VIGNA UNGUICULATA. Four kinds of cowpeas.
25148-149. VIGNA SESQUIPEDALIS.
For preliminary test by Office of Agrostology; if satisfactory seeds will be available later.

CUCUMIS MELO. 25166. From Peleka, Island of Corfu. Presented by Mr. Carlo Sprenger, Vomero, Naples, Italy. Received March 30. "A splendid winter melon. Flesh white or greenish white; shell golden yellow. Very fine and a variety I have never seen before." (Sprenger.)

FICUS SYCAMORUS. 25094. Cuttings from Cairo, Egypt. Presented by Mr. Geo. P. Foaden. Received March 22. "This is the sacred fig of the Egyptians. The fruit is produced in very large numbers on the main branches and trunk of the tree, being borne in clusters. The tree is used in Egypt extensively as an avenue tree and forms one of the characteristic landscape trees of Egypt.

Along the canals it grows luxuriantly and attains large dimensions. The trunk is often two feet or more in diameter and the spread of the branches makes it an excellent shade tree. The fruit is not especially esteemed. Prof. Swingle suggests that it will probably not fruit in the absence of its peculiar fig insect, and this will solve the problem of the malodorous fruit. This fig might be valuable in Texas and Louisiana." For propagation; plants available later.

GALPHIMIA NITIDA. 25100. Grown by Mr. P. J. Wester, Miami, Florida, from seed presented by Mr. S. K. Brown, Lemon City, Fla. "A small shrub four or more feet tall, quite compact in growth and pyramidal in habit; the small, yellow fragrant flowers are produced in great profusion." (Wester.)

GLYCINE HISPIDA. 25118. From Pithoragarh, Kumaon District, India. Presented by Miss L. W. Sullivan. Received March 28. "Bhat Dal." A small black variety of soybean. For preliminary test by Office of Agrostology; if satisfactory seeds will be available later.

GLYCOSMIS PENTAPHYLLA. 24609. Presented by Dr. M. Treub, Buitenzorg, Java. Received Jan. 27. "An evergreen shrub found throughout tropical and subtropical Himalaya ascending to 7000 feet in Sikkim; also in Southern China, in the Philippines and in northeastern Australia. The small, white fragrant flowers are borne in panicles. The berries are white, globose, varying from the size of a pea to that of a cherry." For propagation; plants available later.

HIPPEASTRUM VITTATUM. 25224. From Washington, D. C. Transferred to Office of Foreign Seed and Plant Introduction by Mr. E. M. Byrnes, Superintendent gardens and grounds, April, 1909. "Two year old hybrids, the result of crosses made by Mr. Byrnes in the spring of 1907 between a few unnamed varieties of different shades of color and markings. The bulbs are regarded by Mr. Byrnes as exceptionally large sized for their age and those which have bloomed so far are a decided improvement over the parents." For public parks.

MEDICAGO SATIVA. 25097. From Grand Isle, Vermont. Collected by Mr. N. Schmitz, summer of 1908. "Seed from a single plant of alfalfa. This individual plant was growing under very undrained soil conditions and local testimony indicated that this and associated scattering plants had withstood the unfavorable conditions present for 18 years." (J. M. Westgate.) For distribution by Mr. Westgate.

NEPHELIUM LAPPACEUM. 25163, 25165. N. MUTABILE. 25164. Presented by Dr. M. Treub, Buitenzorg, Java. Received March 12 and 15. "The Ramboetan, as the Dutch in Java call it, is one of the showiest and one of the most delicately flavored of tropical fruits. Although the mangosteen ranks first, in my mind, among tropical fruits, there are many Dutch residents on the Island of Java who prefer the Ramboetan. So far as my limited experience goes with different varieties of leitchee, this Ramboetan surpasses them all in excellence, and if the plants can be grown on the Panama Canal Zone, in Porto Rico or in southern Florida they should make a decided sensation when first offered for sale in our markets." (Fairchild.) For propagation; plants available later.

OCOTEA COTESBYANA. 25101. Grown by Mr. P. J. Wester, Miami, Florida. "This is an evergreen, glabrous tree, attaining a height of 20-30 feet. From the observations I have made of this tree in its native habitat, I believe it is well worth introducing as a shade tree in all parts of the United States where it would not be injured by frost." (Wester.)

PASSIFLORA COCCINEA. 25098. Grown at Miami, Florida, by Mr. P. J. Wester from seed presented by Dr. A. Robertson-Proschowsky, Nice, France. "Is native to South America; the flowers, scarlet with orange-colored rays, are produced from June to November; the fruit is full of a sweet, juicy, edible pulp; it is a climber and should be planted near a trellis or around a piazza." (Wester.)

PASSIFLORA QUADRANGULARIS. 25096. From Ancon, Canal Zone, Panama. Presented by Mr. Henry F. Schultz. Received March 24. "Seed from one of the best fruits which I have sampled in Panama." (Schultz.) For propagation; plants available later.

PRUNUS PSEUDO-CERASUS. 25087. From Japan. Received from the Yokohoma Nursery Co. thru Mr. David Fairchild, March, 1909. 213 seedling plants and 5 pints seed obtained for experiments in bench grafting American cherries in the

manner that the Japanese graft their flowering cherries. A possible new stock for the cherry which will obviate the necessity of budding." (Fairchild.) Distributed.

STRYCHNOS SP. 25170. From Mr. O. W. Barrett, Lourenco Marques, Portuguese East Africa. Received March 30. A tree 15-20 feet high in bush veld from Zululand to Rhodesia. Fruit spherical, 2-3 inches in diameter, yellow when ripe, hard shelled, edible. Flavor like cinnamon and pears." (Barrett.) See also Bulletin No. 13. For propagation; plants available later.

TRIFOLIUM SUAVEOLENS. 25177. Amritsar, Punjab, India. Secured from Mr. Philip Parker thru Mr. Chas. Brand. Received April 1. "Shaftal, which is an annual plant, is the chief fodder crop in the valleys of the northwest frontier of India. It is always grown with irrigation and gives exceedingly good yields. Experiments begun in 1907 with the seed previously presented by Mr. Parker (Nos. 19506 and 19507) have proceeded far enough to show considerable promise for this clover, especially in our hot, irrigated valleys." (Brand.) For distribution by Physiologist, Plant Life History Investigations.

VANGUERIA. 25171. From Mr. O. W. Barrett, Lourenco Marques, Portuguese East Africa. Received March 30. "A small tree near Lourenco Marques in sandy soil. Fruit roundish, edible; pulp dry, sweet." (Barrett.) For propagation; plants available later.

VIGNA UNGUICULATA. 25088. From Muskegon, Michigan. Presented by Mr. C. D. McLouth. Received March 15. "Red Ripper (?) My seed of this variety has been developed from a solitary plant found in a field of Whippoorwill cowpeas grown in 1905. This seed was purchased from a local dealer. It is by far the best variety I have grown in its earliness and abundant pod production." (McLouth.) For preliminary tests by Office of Agrostologhist. If satisfactory seed will be available later.

NOTES FROM FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS.

ARGENTINA, Buenos Aires. Senor Carlos Girola. Will send in May or June seeds of Quebracho colorado and Quebracho blanco (Schinopsis lorentzii and S. Balansae.)

BRAZIL, Theophilo Ottoni, Minas Geraes. Mary T. Birch, March 4. Is sending seed of an edible fruit with a very peculiar taste; also seed of a beautiful ornamental shrub with magenta pink leaves. Also sends a recipe for making rolls from cassava flour; says they are equal to the very lightest French rolls.

CHILE, Limavida. Jose D. Husbands, Feb. 10. Has just returned from a trip to Valdivia where he secured seeds of chupones (Greigia sphacelata) and Bromelia sphacelata, which he will send soon. Reports that the true potato rot (Phytophthara infestans) is unknown in Chile. Reports that Quila (Chusquea quila), a species of bamboo, is an evergreen fodder plant of great value. Cattle pasture on it during the winter, and in some provinces throughout the year.

INDIA, Saharanpur. A. C. Hartless, March 11. Reports on frost-resistant mangoes as follows: Here in northern India we are annually subjected to frosts varying up to 4 or 6°. This amount of frost does not appear to prejudicially affect any kind of mangoes. About 4 years ago, however, there was a frost up to 11° on the grass, and some kinds were badly injured. Many of the varieties were cut back and practically all the seedlings were killed; and the list given refers to the kinds that were especially noted as best withstanding that amount of frost: Gopal Bhog, Bhadaurea, Sundersha, Langra, Bombay Green, Malda. It is a well-known custom here to irrigate such plants well when frost is anticipated. Mangoes are grown as far north as Lahore, but as the winters are somewhat severer there they suffer more in consequence.

MEXICO, Guadalajara. Luis Rosas, March 27. Will send arrayanes (Myrtus Ehrenbergii) in May. Will send Guayabo agrio (Myrtus sp.) sour guava, in July.

PORTUGUESE EAST AFRICA. O. W. Barrett, Feb. 17. Promises to send a collection of native grass seeds. Has never seen wild grass that could compete in quantity or quality with that of the alluvial plain there. Feb. 27. Is sending Ficus sp., the famous east African bark cloth tree, a medium sized tree of the open bush from Zululand to Somaliland. Prefers sandy soil. Almost evergreen, except in long droughts. Thick bark used, when beaten out, for bags, clothing, etc.: appears to wear well. Tree roots well from cuttings. Fruit worthless.

SOUTH AFRICA, Cape Town. Chas. Lounsbury, March 10. Will try to get seeds of various kinds of wild olives. Will send cuttings of Olea verrucosa.

SPAIN, Madrid. Maddin Summers, March 23. Is sending sample of reed matting lath; also samples of two varieties of oats. Suggests importation of Spanish winter muskmelon.

TRANSVAAL, Pretoria. J. Burtt Davy. Feb. 19. Will send roots and seeds of Transvaal Kweek grass (Cynodon incompletus.) This he says makes excellent lawn, but turns brown in cold, dry weather.

RECENT VISITORS.

CHINA. Mr. Yung Kwei, Secretary of the Chinese Embassy, has presented to this office an album of photographic views of the Mukden Agricultural Experiment Station. It can be seen here by any one interested.

PALESTINE. Dr. A. Aaronsohn, the newly appointed Director of an Agricultural Experiment Station established in Palestine under the patronage of the German Government, will visit this country in June. Mr. Aaronshon is probaby the best informed botanist in Palestine. He has had a horticultural training at Montpellier, France, and is a doctor of philosophy from one of the German Universities. His discovery of wild emmer in the mountains of Naphtalie attracted the attention of Prof. Schweinfurth, the German African explorer, who first called our attention to his work. He is coming to this country to spend several months in studying the conditions of agriculture, particularly in the southern and southwestern States. A remarkable letter pointing out the presence in Palestine of new varieties of durum wheat, berseem, wild olives, wild almonds, new Crataegus stocks for southern apples, wild prunes, oranges, apricots, etc., is on file in this office and will be sent to any one asking for it. Mr. Aaronsohn has made three expenditions around the Dead Sea and is deeply interested in alkali resistant crops and dry land agriculture. Dr. Aaronsohn desires to meet as many as possible of the Bureau staff interested in the agriculture of the southern and southwestern states.